

Plymouth No Place For Hate Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023
Hybrid @ 7:00 PM

Attending Members: Barbara Aharoni, Betsy O'Connell, Jon Plate, Sarah Sibley, Vedna Heywood, Peter Matlon, Katherine Jackson, Suzanne Goldberg, Michelle Badger

Attending Associates: Nancy Morse

Visitors: Christina Bryant, Breyanna Hattab, Michelle Tirella Ventura, Vicki Sibley, Tony D'Angelo (PPD)

Call to Order: 7:04 PM by Sarah Sibley who welcomed the attendees.

Public Comment: Christina appreciated seeing the acknowledgment of Embrace around the city and the communications that have been going out during the meeting.

Chair Report: Vedna has nothing new to report. She did not join the cape meeting. Peter was there, there was an extensive discussion on the events at Mashpee Junior High and how it was handled and subsequently a number of documents were circulated in response to inform parents and there was an article from the cape cod times. what happened and responses with the need for significant follow up. These are complex events with no single way to handle them. It may be helpful to use as a case study and see what we can learn from it. It is an ongoing situation. 2 students reenacted the George Floyd incident and it was initially downplayed so there were a lot of questions. Photos were taken and sent around as well. Peter was not there for the most recent meeting.

MLK breakfast, kudos for the event, which came together in a short period of time.
Speaker was well received, Thank you to Pastor Nurse. The service was a great service as well. The pastor did a wonderful job.

Minutes Review: Jon approved and Barbara seconded

Treasurer Report: Activity from the last month. Deposit of 353.00 of that 165 was tickets to MLK 75 T shirts 20 buttons and 93 in donations. From Eventbrite 840 for tickets. Waiting for updated statement for Lisa, Invoice to be paid 1046.44 our take is \$146.56 but still waiting for speakers honoraria. Vedna suggested honoraria of \$200.00. Barbara asked if she requested an amount. Vedna said she did not but we are very lucky to have her as she is in high demand. Sarah asked what we paid for 2020 speaker. Vedna said 150.00 but more was added. Last time we paid an honorarium it was the intergenerational piece and it was 225.00. Jon mentioned that the same day as MLK she was singing on the stage in Boston. Jon made a motion to pay 250 and Michelle seconded. Christina made a statement that a lot of people in the Non Profit sector are starting at 250.00 Barbara asked for the vote. It was passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

- Police: 16 designated biased crimes last year: 3 black, 1 hispanic, one other race, 1 homosexual, 5 transgender, 4 no bias concluded. Sarah asked how does this compare to previous years. That information was not available. Did all of these go before a judge or result in arrest? No. Peter suggested trend data and qualitative information on the incidents if possible. Kathy Dunn from LWV wondered how often the trainings occur? Do they include working with people who are mentally ill or with disabilities. This training was specifically toward bias incidents, other trainings would be separate. Mental Health is a huge portion of their calls. Christina asked is there an opportunity to know how many are logged, pending, closed without caused, charged. The outcome is important to track data in a meaningful way.
- Select Board: N/A
- Library: Susan spoke with Kelsey Casey today. She had trouble finding the collection online. Click on site and it goes to NPFH collection and they are all listed. In 2015, Barry Meltzer passed away. He started NPFH, The family honored him by starting a section both Children and adult and people can add to it as well. It is under social justice. 2016 we had a gala introducing it. It is still growing. Christina asked how does one recommend or add to the library? Susan asked the same question of the library and she will get back to us. Barbara mentioned that it is probably the largest collection of its kind in the state. The library is the one that takes the fund and purchase.

They will take suggestions but also purchase books on their own. Michelle said there are other media like movies etc.. Susan would like us to have more programs around that and do something with the collection. Christina mentioned that the hotlink within the site are broken as well, so they should look into that. Barbara asked the garden is open. She doesn't know status on bench for Barry will get back to us.

- **School:** Michelle was at PSHS at their school council meeting. They are looking at ways to use quotes each morning and engaging the rest of the school community to see what they are interested in, what is their heritage? What would they like to see? What are your abilities? What can you share with the school community? Susan was at the Council at Aging. Yuna has carried on Brooke's group there. Michelle agreed that things can spiral if there isn't forethought.
- **OCA:** This was deferred but Jon would like to put it out for people to approve for 6th year in a row. Jon is asking for a vote to start the process, no financial commitment yet. Pre COVID, the coffee house has funded one of the awards. Typically award is 250.00 per recipient. Jon motioned that he be authorized to send out PR to promote people being nominated for the award. Michelle seconded. Vote is unanimously passed. May 6th is the date of the coffee house.
- **PAICA:** Susan attended meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month. They loved MLK and want to do it again. The biggest thing that came out is that they want to brainstorm what their purpose is. there are a lot of people retiring and a lot of new people coming in. In March planning on having a day to meet and brainstorm. The UU Church will be done sept 23 2023. The Churches are having a lot of COVID and will stay hybrid for a while. Church of the pilgrimage is opening on Mondays for Lunch. They gave out lunches during COVID as well. The episcopal church is having trouble getting a minister and has been having guest speakers. second church has a new pastor. Task force has more women coming in then even. One COVID case but it was isolated with no spread. they would like to have a call in line. Susan will mention the Brazilian Churches being included again.
- **LWV:** Kathy Dunn mentioned our DEI project which was mentioned last time as well. Brazilian celebration we are planning. May 6th at the Loring Center we are working with Adrianna from the Brazilian community. It will be working with the churches to create the event. We are letting the Brazilian community dictate what it will be like. We have not met with the clergy yet. We are hoping to have a meeting with them a street fair style selling food and having music. Is the date set in stone or what is the time? Coffee House is usually 7-11 and this event will be during the day like 1-4. We haven't nailed down the hours yet. Just at the beginning stages. Barbara said maybe we could use this to our advantage. to promote both and include the Brazilian Musicians as well. Adrianna is recommended is providing ideas of what they want to include in their culture. Kathy suggested tying the two events together? Is this something we could combine. Susan was going to talk to a Brazilian Band we had years ago. Michelle suggested that way help financially if we are involved as well. Christina sent a suggestion of a musician to the mailbox, Juan Carlos for the coffeehouse.
- **Media:** Michelle is plugging along, she would love help in creating content that we could share. Feature Friday and a book share Wednesday, or a person to highlight. Local if possible. Women's history month specifically is what we are looking for now. Michelle said she is happy to help as well. Kathy Dunn for Women's history month mentioned celebrating Maura Healey and Michelle Wu, both firsts openly gay and person of color. Former Mayor Janey as well, and Andrea Cambell. Vedna mentioned house rep from Brockton and looking around, there are a lot of people.

Learning Exercise: Jon said that he learned several things, that in court people had to use a separate bible and that you could be arrested for playing checkers in public with a white person. Betsy said that with the article the Smithsonian 92% of white respondents thought slavery didn't impact them but the 79% of african american respondents were embarrassed by their ties to slavery. Finding your Roots host, when they are going back into their ancestry, when people have ties to slavery and he asks how do you feel seeing this for the first time. no one has ever said that they were embarrassed, white people have said it but not african american. To Betsy it is very powerful. Vedna said when she chose these pieces she thought of the choice her parents made coming to the US and the power of that choice. In order to give insight, in the shame of slavery, having had that as your backdrop and no being fortified with other stories you come from this scarcity piece and their is so much more than that. the stories that supported her were the stories of 150 years of not being that. She can see where there is shame. When we are telling these stories what are the stories are we mentioning. Christina thought that Vedna made an important point about choice and brought up the 1619 project just released on HULU and the opening statement that the African American community is born of the water because they have no ties. Black people are upset about the systemic perpetuation of bias that has continued and that there are so many people that don't realize so much of this has happened because of the white washing of history. Choice is definitely the overarching them. Peter wanted to know the date the writing piece was written, he found it incomplete on the evolution of black history and how it has changed over the years. He spoke about his 3 black daughters and the books and media that he and his wife provided with important black role

models. Black history should be conveying the more current utility of black history and the more current trend to erase black history.

Old Business

- PACTV PSA: Planned for later this month. Sarah shared photos with PACTV if people could share MLK Photos
- Budget Committee: Peter, Jon, and Ken met to explore current policies and procedures for finance reporting and what can be done for finances. Looked to see what is out there. Recommend Finance subcommittee to create a policy to get on the same page of what can and cannot do. Guidelines for reporting and enhance reporting for more understanding what can do and a summary of the Town of Plymouth procedures are in a document to avoid confusion with any issues. Michelle moved to create the subcommittee seconded by Jon. Ken, Betsy, Peter, Jon and need one more person. Passes unanimously.
- Women's History Month: Thoughts on Programming in March. Can be hybrid or in person. Michelle talked about the importance of celebrating this. Michelle will look to see what the antiquarian society is doing. Kathy will ask NDA in Hingham what they might be doing for it.
- Spring Programming: Coffee House: Barbara reserved Allerton Hall at Church of the Pilgrimage. Fred Meltzer will obtain musicians for 3 45 minute sets, in the past have been able to do this at no cost. Barbara was informed that if there isn't a curriculum involved the students cannot be involved. Barbara asked to update the music somewhat. Fred's band will perform. Allerton Hall has been redecorated. 20 card tables plus serving to use at no cost. We need to pay for the attendant but that it is it. Meeting with subcommittee on Sunday before the Super Bowl. Need to consider COVID for food handing out. Usually have 50/50 raffle and a raffle of items. Free and Alcohol free so family friendly. Christina asked is there an opportunity for students to do community service hours. Barbara said absolutely. One year it was filmed and had good publicity. Coffee house is called Standing on the side of Love. Jon mentioned that they would love to have more people on the subcommittee and that we will need volunteers for the day. Expenditure is low. We have centerpieces. Committee to provide volunteer roles needed. Should we set up an Eventbrite so we can get an idea of who is coming, she will do a poster for the event. Christina sent message out to see if any students would be interested. Barbara will contact visual arts department to ask about students who might be interested. Jon mentioned to be cognizant of Fred and his involvement.
- Yom HaShoah? Barbara will ask the Rabbi tomorrow

New Business: Christina asked how new members are appointed. Sarah explained how membership works.

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:58. Barbara motioned, Jon seconded

Respectfully submitted by Recording Co-Secretary,
Katherine Jackson